

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3, 7 and 9-10, without prejudice, and amend claims 4, 6, 8 and 11 as follows:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 3, A liquid crystal display, comprising:

two substrates facing each other with a predetermined gap therebetween;
an electrode formed on each surface of the two substrates facing each other;
vertical alignment films formed on the electrodes;
liquid crystals having negative dielectric anisotropy sealed in the gap;
a singular point control portion for performing control such that a singular point of a director of the liquid crystals is formed in a predetermined position above or below said portion when a voltage is applied between the electrodes; and

two polarizers whose polarizing axes are orthogonal to each other provided on an outer surface of each of the two substrates, wherein the singular point control portion forms the singular point when a voltage is applied so as to increase the ratio of the area of a liquid crystal domain in which the direction of longitudinal axes of molecules of the liquid crystals in the vicinity of the singular point control portion is substantially at an angle of 45

deg. to the polarizing axes of the polarizers as viewed in the normal direction of the surfaces of the substrates,

wherein the singular point control portion forms a first singular point where the longitudinal axes of the liquid crystal molecules are directed toward substantially the same point and a second singular point where a part of the liquid crystal molecules are directed in a different direction adjacent to each other and controls the alignment of the liquid crystals such that the longitudinal axes of the liquid crystal molecules in liquid crystal domains located adjacent to each other on both sides of an imaginary straight line connecting the adjacent first and second singular points are substantially at 45 deg. to the imaginary straight line when a voltage is applied, and

wherein one dark line is formed substantially along the imaginary straight line between a plurality of the singular point control portions when a voltage is applied.

5. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 4, wherein the singular point control portion suppresses any expansion of the width of the dark line by causing distortion of a distribution of an electric field in a direction that is at least orthogonal to the imaginary straight line between the singular point control portions when a voltage is applied.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A liquid crystal display according to Claim 1, A~~
liquid crystal display, comprising:

two substrates facing each other with a predetermined gap therebetween;
an electrode formed on each surface of the two substrates facing each other;
vertical alignment films formed on the electrodes;
liquid crystals having negative dielectric anisotropy sealed in the gap;
a singular point control portion for performing control such that a singular
point of a director of the liquid crystals is formed in a predetermined position above or below
said portion when a voltage is applied between the electrodes; and

~~further comprising~~ a protrusion formed on at least either of the electrodes at
the singular point control portions and/or along an imaginary straight line between a plurality
of the singular points adjacent to each other, wherein liquid crystal molecules on the
protrusion are inclined substantially about the singular points when a voltage is applied.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) ~~Liquid crystal display according to Claim 1, A~~
liquid crystal display, comprising:

two substrates facing each other with a predetermined gap therebetween;
an electrode formed on each surface of the two substrates facing each other;

vertical alignment films formed on the electrodes;
liquid crystals having negative dielectric anisotropy sealed in the gap;
a singular point control portion for performing control such that a singular
point of a director of the liquid crystals is formed in a predetermined position above or below
said portion when a voltage is applied between the electrodes; and

wherein an alignment regulating member is provided substantially in parallel with the imaginary straight line connecting the singular points adjacent to each other and wherein ~~the~~an alignment of the liquid crystals is controlled such that the direction of longitudinal axes of the liquid crystal molecules in liquid crystal domains located adjacent to each other on both sides of the alignment regulating member are substantially at 90 deg. to the imaginary straight line when a voltage is applied.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) Liquid crystal display according to Claim 9,A
liquid crystal display, comprising:
two substrates facing each other with a predetermined gap therebetween;
a pixel electrode formed on either of the substrates;
an opposite electrode formed on the other substrate in a face-to-face
relationship with the pixel electrode;

vertical alignment films formed on the pixel electrode and the opposite electrode;

liquid crystals having negative dielectric anisotropy sealed in the gap; and
a singular point control portion for performing control such that a singular
point of a director of the liquid crystals is formed in a predetermined position above or below
said portion and around the pixel electrode,

wherein the singular point control portion forms the singular point in a gap between the pixel electrode and the bus line.

12. (Original) Liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein the singular point control portion forms a first singular point where the direction of longitudinal axes of liquid crystal molecules are substantially directed toward the same point and a second singular point where a part of liquid crystal molecules are directed in a different direction.